



Why compost?

Compost has many beneficial uses, including:

- As a soil enhancement, helping plants grow larger and stronger.
- When used for erosion control, it helps keep streams cool for salmon.

Since the start of the Save Organic Scraps program in 2005, the county has diverted over 400 tons of organic waste from schools. It was all turned into compost!



Who sponsors Save Organic Scraps?

This program is a cooperative effort of the Clark County Solid Waste program, Waste Connections and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal and Yacolt. More than 50 schools in the Vancouver, Evergreen and Camas School districts now have SOS.

Clark County Solid Waste hopes to help more schools and parents introduce the program to their students. Many resources are available, including:

- Classroom presentations.
- Assembly programs.
- Waste audits.
- Field trips.
- Support for service learning projects.

For information, please contact:

Clark County Public Works
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4452

www.clark.wa.gov/recycle
www.recyclextreme.com



SAVE ORGANIC SCRAPS PROGRAM

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS TURN ORGANIC WASTE...



... INTO COMPOST



It's all about choices...

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
Voice (360) 397-2000; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388;
Fax (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov

NATURE'S WAY OF RECYCLING



Save Organic Scraps

Did you know that left over food from school cafeterias can be turned into valuable compost for gardens? Students in a number of Clark County schools are learning that food/paper waste is a valuable natural resource. Through the Save Organic Scraps program, they are gaining first-hand experience about the importance of recycling.

In 2005, the lunchtime program started with three Vancouver schools. Since then, Save Organic Scraps has composted over 1.2 million pounds of organic waste and expanded to more than 50 schools in the Vancouver, Evergreen and Camas school districts. The goal is to operate the program in all of Clark County's elementary, middle and high schools.

How does SOS work?

- Elementary school students are introduced to the program through an assembly and classroom presentations.
- Middle and high school students take the lead in developing SOS implementation plans. Often they create posters, deliver classroom presentations or even film their own "Eco-Clips" to show during morning announcement periods.

What is the recycle station?

At lunchtime, students learn how to recycle their food in the cafeteria. After eating, they walk to the recycle station where there is an area for them to:

- Drain out excess liquid and recycle their milk or juice cartons.
- Empty recyclable food and paper products into a separate container with a biodegradable liner.
- Empty the rest of their trash and foil into the garbage can.

All of the leftover food and paper in the recycle station is collected and taken to an off-site facility where it is turned into compost.

Learning about leadership

Students and teachers are the key to the success of this program. Students are able to see measurable results through their involvement with SOS. Also, they learn leadership skills by developing the implementation plan for their schools and by training and educating their peers about the importance of composting.

